



County of Milwaukee  
**Office of the Sheriff**

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David A. Clarke Jr.  
Sheriff

June 5, 2006

VIA FAX 1-608-267-8983

The Honorable Jim Doyle  
Governor  
State of Wisconsin  
State Capitol, Room 115 East  
Madison, WI 53702

Dear Governor Doyle:

I was pleased to read about your interest in assisting with state resources to deal with the issue of public safety in Milwaukee. However, I was disappointed that your interest did not extend to the rest of Milwaukee County. The Milwaukee County Sheriff's Office, through county taxpayers, has expended considerable resources in the fight against the criminal element in the city of Milwaukee. My responsibility is to every municipality in Milwaukee County, not just the city.

Reduced shared revenue has increased the burden on local taxpayers. In the current state budget the legislature included a \$500,000 increase to help close the widening gap between what it costs and what the state reimburses us for freeway patrol operation. Your line item veto erased \$400,000 of the proposed funding. Now that widening gap has to be paid through the tax levy. The funding would have allowed me to apply \$400,000 in tax levy toward park, bus and lakefront patrols, or to increase our intensity in searching for sex offenders or predators who look for children on the Internet.

Milwaukee County is the only county in the state that does not receive the state resource of assistance from the State Patrol. This means that Milwaukee County taxpayers pay twice. These are state roads.

Recently you introduced an intensified effort to track registered sex offenders. You stated that it is predicated on collaboration with local law enforcement agencies. However, your initiative came with no added funding for us to better track sex offenders. The new state website might dazzle the public, but it is officers pounding the streets looking for offenders, who ultimately will be effective and provide better protection for women and children.

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Milwaukee is at a crisis as it relates to crime, violence and disorder in our public spaces including neighborhoods, parks, schools and streets. This crisis is spreading and affecting municipalities surrounding the city of Milwaukee. On May 31st, three 17-year-old boys from Milwaukee carjacked a Wauwatosa woman at gunpoint who just had pulled into her garage after a visit to her church.

Last week at your press conference you said that the state should play a role and collaborate with law enforcement against the violence problem in the city of Milwaukee, in order to make our limited resources go further. I agree with you. Therefore, I respectfully am requesting that you order the State Patrol to take over expressway operation in Milwaukee County until Labor Day. This will allow me an additional fifty deputy sheriffs to track sex offenders, patrol county parks and the lakefront more intensely, and to patrol county buses on straight time.

The majority of troubled bus routes are in the city of Milwaukee, as well as the parks that experience a high rate of calls for service. Milwaukee police officers respond to calls emanating from both parks and buses. The riders and park goers include residents from the city of Milwaukee. As the fifty deputy sheriffs taken from expressway patrols will be placed into parks and on bus routes during the summer, this will free up Milwaukee police officers to concentrate on violence-ridden neighborhoods. Deputy sheriff visibility in the city of Milwaukee for parks and buses will provide another layer of "more police officers on the streets."

Just the other day, Milwaukee police officers were tied up for an incredible amount of time investigating a suspicious package on a Milwaukee County transit bus in the city of Milwaukee. If sheriff deputies temporarily were freed up from expressway patrol they would be able to handle these incidents, which then would allow Milwaukee police officers to stay focused on patrolling high crime neighborhoods in Milwaukee.

If you will not order the State Patrol to take over expressway operations in Milwaukee County, I am requesting that you provide the Milwaukee County Sheriff's Office with \$700,000 from the same funding source you provided to the city of Milwaukee in order for me to pay overtime to cover these critical public spaces.

Summer is here and I hope the sense of urgency you demonstrated in immediately finding funding for the city of Milwaukee is the same sense of urgency you will use for the rest of Milwaukee County. Governor, you and I working in concert will send a powerful message to the criminal element that their reign of terror is coming to an end.

Sincerely,

David A. Clarke Jr., Sheriff  
Milwaukee County

c: County Executive Scott Walker  
County Board Chairman Lee Holloway